

### Amendments to the Specifications:

Please amend the fourth complete paragraph on page 3 as follows:

-- The present invention provides a continuous surface preparation process for metals such as titanium, aluminum, stainless steel, nickel, and copper. The term "metals" as used herein includes alloys. The process of the present invention may be utilized in the overall process of forming titanium/graphite (TiGr) laminate structures. By way of overview and with reference to FIGURES 1, 2, and 3 one presently preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a process including a grit blast line 10 (FIG. 1), a sol-gel coating line 40 (FIG. 2), and an adhesive coating line ~~70~~ 100 (FIG. 3). It is to be understood that it is an aspect of the present invention to combine the three separate lines 10, 40, and ~~70~~ 100 into a single continuous line if desired. Specific details of the process are described with more detail below. --

Please amend the fourth complete paragraph on pages 5-6 as follows:

-- Material 14 travels upwardly through oven section 92 where the solvent is evaporated off. The temperature in oven ~~75~~ 92 is about 150-170°F with a preferred temperature of about 160°F. Heated air is supplied to oven ~~75~~ 92 through inlet duct 72 and the solvent vapor exits through exhaust duct 86. --